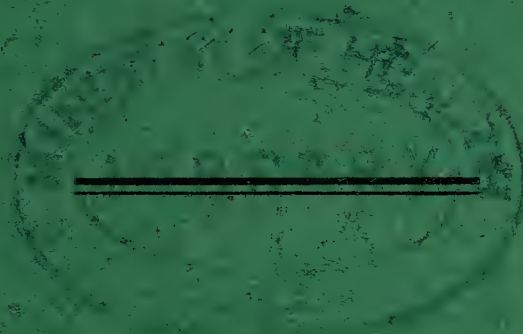




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**NORTH KESTEVEN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SANITARY INSPECTOR**

FOR THE YEAR

1950



LINCOLN :

DONCASTERS LTD., MINT LANE

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NORTH KESTIVEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector for 1950

Chairman : MR. W. E. YOUNG, Branston.

Vice-Chairman : MR. G. W. HUTSON, North Hykeham, Lincoln.

Treasurer : NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK LIMITED, Lincoln.

Medical Officer of Health : DR. W. SHARRARD, The Avenue, Lincoln.

Clerk & Chief Financial Officer : MR. F. FOSTER,

Deputy Clerk : MR. WILLIAM EPTON (Legal Adviser) Solicitor, Lincoln.

Rating and Valuation Officer & Housing
Tenancy Manager. MR. A. ELKINGTON,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

MR. J. CHADWICK,

Assistant Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector :

MR. J. K. M. WILLIS.

Council Offices :
31 Clasketgate, Lincoln,
Telephone No. 8617.

Surveyors — 10095
Pumping Station, Waneham Bridge
Metheringham.

Telephone No. 230.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman act as *ex-officio* members of all Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council (except the Rating Committee).

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen.

As your Medical Officer of Health, I beg to lay before you my report of the Health and Sanitary conditions of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres)	102,178
Population 1949	25,240
1950	28,670
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1921	3,825
“ “ “ 1949	6,770
“ “ “ 1950	6,850
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1921 ...	4,301
“ “ “ 1931 ...	4,931
Rateable Value (31st December, 1950) ...	£109,649 (+ 2,167)
Sum represented by a penny rate	£424 (+ 8)

The usual agricultural pursuits were carried on in the District, as also Crop drying, Flax manufacture and Pest Control, and a large Malleable Iron Works at North Hykeham ; the two latter have markedly enlarged in recent times, and are still expanding.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M.	F.		
Live Births—Legitimate	427	233	194	Birth Rate	15.97 (17.9)
Illegitimate	31	16	15		
Still Births—Legitimate	7	3	4	Rate per 1,000	
Illegitimate	0	0	0	Total Births	15.05 (25.8)
Deaths... ..	288	147	141	Death Rate	10.5 (11.3)
Number of women dying in, or in consequence				from sepsis	0
of, childbirth				from other causes	0

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :—	Total	M.	F.
	15	12	3
Legitimate		11	3
Illegitimate		1	0

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—	Total	M.	F.
	24	17	7
Legitimate		16	7
Illegitimate		1	0

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births— Total 52.4 (35.3)

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 0

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 2

Diphtheria 0

Pneumonia was accountable for 2.8% of the deaths. Cancer 12.2%.

Heart Disease 34%. Tuberculosis, respiratory, 2.4%. Influenza 0%.

Infantile mortality is well above that for England and Wales, and 126 Great Towns.

GENERAL PROVISIONS of the HEALTH SERVICES in the AREA

These are substantially the same as in the year previous.

Beds still are scarce, however and the demand for same clamant.

The ambulance service is both efficient and well used, and more economical than some.

As proof of the intensity of demand from General Practitioners the number of "prescriptions per person" for the year was over 5.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Salvage.—The following has been collected and disposed of by the Council during the year under the control of your Sanitary Inspector :—

	TONS	CWTS.	QRS.
Paper ...	11	3	2
Textiles ...	—	—	—
Iron and other Metal	11	17	0
Total Weight...	23	1	1
Total Value, £82 9s. 2d.			

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	585
Horses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	701
Beasts inspected	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pigs inspected	...	...	...	...	...	1
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	51
Drains Tested	...	...	...	...	...	185
Housing Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	95

Inspections on Complaint	...	...	...	...	...	116
Inspections <i>re</i> Nuisances...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Other Inspections under Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	147
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	13
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	...	6
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	78
Houses Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	20
Water Samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	47
Ice Cream Samples	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Sewer Dykes	...	...	...	...	...	40
Visits <i>re</i> Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	457
Visits to Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	992
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	145
Houses in Course of Erection	...	...	...	...	...	679
Scavenging	...	...	...	...	...	70
Rural Housing Survey (Houses Inspected)	...	...	...	...	...	0
Civil Building Control	...	...	...	...	...	53
Visits to Housing Sites	...	...	...	...	...	264
Factories Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	12
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	...	2

Food Condemned

	TONS	CWTS.	QRS.	LBS.
Beef	—	2	1	5
Beast Offals	—	—	1	12
Horseflesh	4	15	2	14
Horseflesh Offals	—	6	1	7
Mutton	—	4	0	0
Pork	—	1	2	10
Bacon	—	1	0	25
Flour	—	—	—	12
Semolina	—	—	2	24
Currants	—	—	1	22

Housing Generally

Since the end of the war and up to the end of the year the Council have had tenders approved for the erection of 472 permanent houses. 344 houses have been completed and of these 56 traditional houses and 6 Airey houses were completed during the year. At the end of the year 74 traditional houses and 6 aluminium bungalows were under construction.

27 houses were completed by private builders during the year, making a total of 149 completed since the war. 7 private dwellings were under construction at the year end.

Water Supply

During the year the scheme for the supply of water to the parishes of Thorpe-on-the-Hill, Eagle, Whisby, Doddington, Swinethorpe and North Scarle was completed and all our Parishes now have a piped supply.

				<i>Direct Services</i>		<i>Pillar Fountains</i>	
				<i>No. of</i>	<i>Popl'n</i>	<i>No. of</i>	<i>Popl'n</i>
				<i>Properties served</i>	<i>served</i>	<i>Properties served</i>	<i>served</i>
Detailed Water Supply							
Auborn, Haddington and South							
Hykeham	...	...	...	146	486	23	79
Bassingham	...	...	...	110	381	23	78
Beckingham	...	...	...	48	166	28	87
Bcothby Graffoe	...	...	...	40	136	—	—
Bracebridge Heath	...	...	...	405	1204	—	—
Branston and Mere	...	...	...	319	1110	105	353
Brant Broughton and Stragglethorpe	...	...	...	107	335	48	171
Canwick	...	...	...	74	259	—	—
Carlton-le-Moorland	...	...	...	36	120	21	72
Coleby	...	...	...	81	297	28	98
Doddington and Whisby...	...	...	...	60	200	—	—
Dunston	...	...	...	56	193	60	208
Eagle and Swinethorpe	...	...	...	91	319	—	—
Harmston	...	...	...	44	145	31	105
Heighington	...	...	...	167	568	54	188
Leadenham...	...	...	...	95	324	6	24
Metheringham	...	...	...	216	748	133	461
Navenby (includes Skinnand)	...	...	...	118	406	51	177
Nocton	...	...	...	33	113	22	75
North Hykeham	...	...	...	913	2953	—	—
North Scarle	...	...	...	38	133	—	—
Norton Disney	...	...	...	18	63	11	38
Potterhanworth	...	...	...	50	170	24	82
Skellingthorpe	...	...	...	462	1617	—	—
Stapleford	...	...	...	11	39	22	77
Swinderby	...	...	...	65	227	—	—
Thorpe-on-the-Hill (includes Morton)	...	...	...	65	228	—	—
Thurlby	...	...	...	11	40	6	24
Waddington	...	...	...	290	970	108	368
Washingborough	...	...	...	162	560	81	286
Welbourn	...	...	...	194	312	30	103
Wellingore	...	...	...	60	206	39	134

Samples taken from Public Supplies in 1950

<i>Nature of Sample</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Chemical ...	—	—	—
Bacteriological ...	21	12	33

All the samples taken from public supplies at the source of supply were satisfactory.

Scavenging

The collection of household refuse was extended to all our Parishes during the year 1949. 21 Parishes are by contract and the remaining 11 by direct labour.

Sewerage Schemes

The scheme for North Hykeham and Waddington has been commenced. No further advance has been made in the schemes for Branston, Heighington, Washingborough and Metheringham.

Public Health Act and Housing Act, 1936

23 Preliminary Notices have been served during the year, 17 Statutory Notices have been served and 15 have been complied with by the Owners.

The Council have carried out repairs to one cottage in default of the owner to the amount of £29 15s. 0d.

3,290 inspections have been made in the District by your Sanitary Inspectors during the year.

Tuberculosis (New Cases in 1949)

			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.
Totals	...	...	14	9	0	0
Non-civilian	...	...	1	0	0	0
Deaths	...	...	4	3	0	1

DISEASES						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED	CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	TOTAL DEATHS
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	8
Encephalitis Lethargia	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Polio-Myelitis	...	...	...	...	...	8 (6 Paralytic)	8	3
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	518	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	52	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Malaria (R)	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

One being a man on holiday in Nottingham

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

1.—**Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Number on Register, 63 ; Number of Inspections, 12.

2.—Cases in which **defects** were found—

Found, 2 ; Remedied, 2 ; Referred by H.M. Inspector, 1.

GENERAL REMARKS

The high Infantile Mortality rate calls for comment. Of the 24 Infants dying under 1 year of age no less than 15 were under four weeks of age. Of these, 5 were prematurely born and died in from one hour to a week ; 6 were cases of congenital heart or other deformities ; 1 died of pneumonia at one week ; 1 died of white asphyxia at one hour ; 1 died of an injury to the tentorium of the brain at birth in one hour, due mainly to precipitate delivery ; 1 died of asphyxia due to regurgitation of food at one month. In addition, 1 died of shock during an operation at five months ; 2 died of pneumonia at six and nine months respectively.

Diphtheria Immunisation

I make no apology for again returning to this subject. In 1941 there were 50,797 cases of Diphtheria notified, and of these 2,641 were fatal. For the preceeding ten years there had been an average of 60,000 notifications, and 3115 deaths. During 1950 the number of cases was 980, with 49 deaths.

The following table shows clearly that the prognosis for those who contract the disease, but who at some time have been immunised, is much better than those who have never had any such protection.

Year	Number of cases in children under 15 years	Number of those who had full course of immunisation	Number of deaths under 15 from diphtheria	Number of deaths of children fully immunised	Case fatality rate per 1000	
					Non immunised	immunised
1945	12514	4431	593	36	68.9	8.1
1946	7719	2723	325	15	62.	5.5
1947	3941	1287	198	16	68.6	12.4
1948	2431	788	126	6	73.	7.6
1949	1322	435	63	4	66.5	9.2

In 1949, the case fatality rate for non-immunised children under 5 years in the country as a whole, was 11.3 per cent, and for immunised 2.3 per cent. For the age group 5-15, the figures were 3.8 per cent and .33 per cent.

A feature of the age incidence of diphtheria during the past ten years, has been that adults have been relatively more often attacked. The probable explanation is that because they no longer, or only seldom, have contact with the organism they are more vulnerable when they are exposed.

By the end of 1949, it was computed that 66% of children were protected. Unfortunately in 1950, there was a sharp decline in primary immunisation from 693, 441 in 1949, to 517, 463, in 1950. This was most probably due to the fear of possible precipitation of a paralytic form of poliomyelitis by the inoculation against diphtheria. As a result of this a special committee is enquiring into and investigating the same.

It is worth noting that during 1950 when over half-a-million immunisations were carried out only 58 cases of poliomyelitis, developing within four weeks of injection were reported, and in only 46 was the recently injected limb affected. With such a large number of children immunised in a year in which say 5,000 cases of paralytic poliomyelitis were notified there is obviously room for coincidence. But, admitting that the majority of these 58 cases were probably not merely coincidental, no opinion can be expressed on the significance of these figures save **that the risk appears to be a very small one.**

Hence every effort should be made to ensure that the highly successful immunisation campaign is not brought into disrepute by over-emphasis of this risk.

We must be warned in time and not be bullied into a false sense of security such as was prevalent in this country almost 100 years ago, when diphtheria seemed to be fast becoming extinct, only to recur as we have seen in the last forty years or so.

Measles

We had a major epidemic of this erstwhile most treacherous disease, but thanks to the marvellous help of the sulphonamides and penicillin and the devotion of the sorely tired General Practitioner there was not a single death.

Poliomyelitis

We were unfortunate in suffering like many parts of Great Britain, from a sharp attack of this dread disease, and our death rate was unduly high compared with the average.

It is noteworthy that generally speaking the incidence is greater in rural than urban areas, and that males are more often attacked than females.

Past experience has shown that of every 100 cases admitted to hospital with suspected "polio" during an epidemic period, five or six are likely to die, nine or ten are likely to be severely paralysed, 17 or 18 are likely to have a degree of paralysis which, properly treated, is not likely to prevent them from working, and the remaining 65 or 70 are likely to suffer either no ill effects or to be left with a slight degree of paralysis which may pass almost unnoticed.

Housing

It is gratifying to note that 56 traditional houses and 6 Airey houses were completed during the year, and that at the year's end 74 traditional houses and 6 aluminium bungalows were under construction.

In view of the financial and raw material stringency in the country it is most essential that all available housing space should be fully used. Hence transfers of older people whose families have grown up and left home from the larger houses to the smaller ones must be assiduously ensured. Moreover in view of the trends of population the provision of two bedroomed houses should certainly be considered now to avoid any housing "waste."

Water

A dream has finally come true. All the parishes in our District have now got a pure piped water supply as the supply to Thorpe, Eagle, Whisby, Doddington, Swinethorpe and North Scarle was completed during the year.

It is now up to each farmer who is out of the immediate environs of our villages to ensure that he taps the water-supply for all his cattle and so to ensure that they too shall have only the best.

Sewerage

Another dream so persistently and regularly postulated over 25 years is in progress of realisation. The North Hykeham and Waddington sewerage scheme has been commenced and should add materially to Hykeham's attraction as a model village—so near to town, yet in the country, with all modern conveniencies.

Schemes for the other large villages are still held up but will eventually materialise.

In conclusion, I once more wish to thank your Inspectors and Housing Official who are doing a grand job of work in keeping this rural district in the forefront.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. SHARRARD.

APPENDIX I.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.		M.	F.
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	4	3	19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	6	8
2 Tuberculosis, other ...	—	1	20 Other heart disease ...	29	26
3 Syphilitic disease ...	1	1	21 Other circulatory disease	3	2
4 Diphtheria ...	—	—	22 Influenza ...	—	—
5 Whooping cough ...	—	—	22 Pneumonia ...	6	2
6 Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	24 Bronchitis ...	2	9
7 Acute poliomyelitis ...	2	1	25 Other diseases of res- piratory system ...	2	2
8 Measles ...	—	—	26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	2
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	1	27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa ...	1	1
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	3	6	28 Nephritis and nephrosis	4	1
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	2	1	29 Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	2	30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus... ..	—	2	31 Congenital malforma- tions ...	4	2
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	8	32 Other defined and ill- defined diseases ...	16	16
15 Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	—	33 Motor vehicle accidents	2	—
16 Diabetes ...	1	1	34 All other accidents ...	17	3
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	10	30	35 Suicide... ..	1	—
18 Coronary disease, angina ...	19	10	36 Homicide and opera- tions of war ...	—	—
			All causes ...	147	141

	M.	F.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—Total ...	17	7
Legitimate ...	16	7
Illegitimate ...	1	0
Live Births—	M.	F.
Total ...	249	209
Legitimate ...	233	194
Illegitimate ...	16	15
Stillbirths—Total ...	3	4
Legitimate ...	3	4
Illegitimate ...	0	0
Population ...	28,670	

APPENDIX II
BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1950.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Total population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population									Rate per live 1,000 Births	
	Live Births	Still-births	All Causes	Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fever	Small-pox	Tuberculosis	Acute Polio Myelitis	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	15.8	.37	11.6	0.00	0.00	.36	.02	.46	.01	.00	.10	1.9	29.8
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	17.6	.45	12.3	0.00	0.00	.42	.02	.49	.01	.00	.09	2.2	33.8
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	16.7	.38	11.6	0.00	0.00	.33	.02	.45	.01	.00	.10	1.6	29.4
London	17.8	.36	11.8	0.00	0.00	.39	.01	.48	.01	.00	.07	1	26.3
NORTH KESTIVEN.....	15.97	.24	10.05	0.00	0.00	.28	.10	.28	.00	.00	.00	4.4	52.4

